

a) IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph [0012] with the following replacement paragraph:

--[0012] A synthetic polypeptide corresponding to the fragment of the endothelial (Type III) NO synthase (1185-~~1295~~ 1205) with the following amino acid sequence: Glu Arg Leu His Asp Ile Glu Ser Lys Gly Leu Gln Pro Thr Pro Met Thr Leu Val Phe is obtained by solid-phase peptide synthesis (Marsden P A, Schappert K T, Chen H S, Flowers M, Sundell C L, Wilcox J N, Lamas S, Michel T Molecular Cloning and Characterization of Human Endothelial Nitric Oxide Synthase, FEBS Lett., 307:287-293, 1992). --